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DURCANSKY

SAC

10 Sept 50

REF ID: A65410
THE COMMISSION
ON INVESTIGATION AND AMERICAN SERVICE
SUBJECT: Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY

1. Reference is made to a telephone query made by Mr. Palos on 15 August 1950 with regard to Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY, former Slovak Foreign Minister and now leader of the Slovak Liberation Committee, rival Slovak separatist organization to Karel SIDER's Slovak National Council who is at present reported to be living in Buenos Aires.

2. The following statements concerning Dr. DURCANSKY come from "Who's Who in Occupied and Satellite Europe, Excluding France", published in May 1941:

→ Slovak politician. Born circa 1904. Son of Senator Jozef DURCANSKY, representative of the Slovak People's (Hlinka) Party in the Czechoslovak Senate. As a student was a fervent partisan of Slovak-Hungarian Union. Started his career as unknown lawyer. Studied in Paris and Berlin, where he made intimate contacts with Hitler Youth leaders. On his return to Czechoslovakia, he founded the monthly "Mestop" with good aid. First came into prominence as Minister of Justice in the Slovak autonomous government founded October 1939 (after Munich). Later was obliged by Czechoslovak expedition to flee to Vienna, where he violently attacked the Czechoslovak Republic. Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and became Minister of Interior in the first independent Slovak Government, 14 March 1940. Suddenly dismissed in September 1941, reported to be on demand of the Germans who were playing off the groups of TUSA (Dr. Vaňo — advocate of Czechoslovak-Hungarian union) and KACH (Sme — advocate of Slovak-Czech-Romanian affiliation) against that of DURCANSKY. Articles in "Slovak", March 1943, accused the Slovaks of inciting anti-Czech feeling.

3. According to a report dated 7 October 1946, the source of which was Mr. United States, now chairman of the National Committee for Liberation of Slovakia, an emigre political group in the United States (noted presumably as affiliate of DURCANSKY's own organization) Dr. DURCANSKY was formerly a professor of International law at the University of Bratislava and was Slovak Foreign Minister in 1939, in which capacity he signed a treaty of friendship with Hitler under duress.

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Section 3(b)

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According to CIAUC VII, he was dismissed by the pro-Hitler government in Slovakia because of his desire to establish contacts with England and France. According to a report dated October 1946 he was formerly in the Hlinka Guard.

4. Information was received in January 1946 that Dr. DURCAKSY had arrived in Rome with his wife and two children and that he had gone into hiding. In April 1947 the Czechoslovak Government under President NEJEDLIK requested the extradition of Dr. DURCAKSY from Italy for trial in Czechoslovakia as a war criminal. The request was refused since the Italo-Czech treaty of 1921 was not applicable to political criminals. In August 1947 (note: pre-Communist coup) Major Josef MUPKICH, then First Secretary at the Czechoslovak legation in Rome and a representative of the Ministry of Interior, was assigned the mission of locating Dr. DURCAKSY and kidnapping him for the Czechoslovak Government. This attempt was unsuccessful, however.

5. While in Rome Dr. DURCAKSY was reported to be cooperating ^{Papa} with Hungarians in the framework of the INTLÉHÁZ Hungarian, a European Federalist organization composed of various dissident elements -- Poles, Hungarians, Slovaks, Slovens, etc., which is rightist and nationalistic in character.

6. According to a report dated 25 March 1947, DURCAKSY left Rome in December 1946 and was in hiding near Rome in Frascati where he is alleged to have stayed at the Jesuit Monastery and in nearby Grottaferrata where he lived at the College for Oriental Priests. In March 1947 he returned to Rome and was reported to be staying in the Vatican as a guest of a postal employee of the Vatican mail service. A report dated June 1947 from a source whose reliability is unknown stated that he was making regular radio broadcasts to Slovakia from either Austria or Italy. A Prague newspaper item originating in Vienna on 16 June 1947 stated that DURCAKSY's news broadcasts had gone off the air and that he was living in Salzburg as a privileged DP and that the broadcasts originated somewhere in Southern Austria.

7. After the abortive mission to kidnap him mentioned in paragraph 6 above, he is alleged to have escaped to Spain. The American Embassy in Prague stated in a cable dated 8 November 1947 that a Communist official in the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs had informed the Embassy that DURCAKSY had left Italy for Argentina in October 1947. A State Department cable dated 22 December 1947 was dispatched to all stations to submit to the Department any application for visa facilities which might be made by DURCAKSY, as well as whether any visa facilities had already been issued to him by a Consulate. A request for a visa was submitted to the American Consulate General in Naples on 13 January 1948 by DURCAKSY.

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8. A report dated 28 December 1948 stated that DURAKOV had arrived in Argentina (date not given) under the name HENRY VILLAS. It was further reported that he had, under this name, Interred in ALCAZARES ARGENTINAS, B. A., a cemetery in Buenos Aires for the protection of susceptible according to a process discovered by one Nicolas ESTHER.

9. A FBI report dated 25 March 1949 stated that the Comintern Government had that day filed a formal petition via the diplomatic offices for the extradition from Argentina of DURAKOV. The Argentine Government returned the Comintern Government's request to extradite him. In April 1949 it was reported that he was interested in finding in the United States and that he was then in the process of arranging with third name persons who would recommend him for a U.S. visa or who would make arrangements for him at the American Consulate in Buenos Aires. It may have been for this reason that sometime later, August 1949, he agreed to turn over information to the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires. In so doing, it is of this time, it is claimed that he visited to turn over information names lists organized on, Committee of Central and Eastern Europe, had been compiled by the Argentine police.

10. Concerning the Comintern of Central and Eastern Europe, a report dated 11 July 1949 states that one Father MARCEL MELLO, an Argentine priest and National Deputy, together with Ernesto RODRIGUEZ, former Minister and PERONIST, initiated the formation of this committee about a year previously with the support and backing of the Argentine Communist Party, BOLIVIAN COMMUNISTS, and URUGUAYAN COMMUNISTS. This nature is anti-American, anti-Americanist, and anti-colonialist.

11. A report dated 2 December 1948 stated that DURAKOV had been active in forming the Soviet Communist groups in Buenos Aires and that he had allegedly reported the names of such individuals to the Argentine police. In September 1948 there was an unconfirmed report that in Elizalde, Comintern General he had helped the Elizalde organization clandestinely a comander from Cominternovka with the intention of convincing his Excellency, now living in Buenos Aires and commandant head of the Elizalde organization. According to this report the comander was to represent both the communists and the Communists in mapping a common plan of action.

12. A report was received in July 1949 from a family reliable source that Fausto Simeone of the Argentine State Petrolia in Uruguay was planning their home for eventual release on the influence of BURGESS.

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13. In June 1948 it was reported that a meeting of delegates from various refugee camps in Germany of DUKEANSKY followers was held in Frankfurt on 12 June 1948. An illegal emigration route to South America, via France and Spain, is said to have been an item of discussion. The group's Munich address was given as Lichten Str. 11, 5th Floor, telephone 40340.

14. A report from a source of unknown reliability dated 14 July 1949 stated that DUKEANSKY had lost considerable prestige, especially among the more recent Slovak arrivals in Argentina, to Dr. Karel SIECH, the subject of recent controversial discussion within Czech and Slovak groups in the United States. One of the reasons for this loss of prestige is said to be DUKEANSKY's outward attachment toward Nazi elements and former followers. He is further stated by the source of this report to be violently anti-Semitic and anti-U.S.

15. According to July 1950 issues of the "New York Daily News", Reverend Rudolf DILONG is DUKEANSKY's representative in the United States. The 28 July 1950 issue reports that simultaneous lecture tours by DILONG and Dr. SIECH has led to open bickering on pages of the Slovak separatist press, but that the fight has been somewhat dampened by Walter Winchell's campaign against both separatist leaders.

16. A source of unknown reliability has stated that it is his opinion that the retention of General Miloslav FERENCIK on Ellis Island for three months in 1949 on charges of being a Communist might be the work of the DUKEANSKY separatist group. It will be recalled that General FERENCIK was cleared of these charges and admitted to the United States on 4 November 1949, following an investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

17. It is recommended that the Department of State and Army, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, be queried concerning Dr. DUKEANSKY.

FOR THE DIRECTOR - CRYSTAL INTELLIGENCE

Assistant Director

SD BB-38568

7 Sept. 50
Source: []

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